Appl. No. 09/980,527 Attorney Docket No. 011-040801US Amdt. & Response to Final OA Dated 21 June 2004

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Applicant notes that the proposed drawing changes and additions were accepted by the Examiner. Applicant therefore submits a replacement set of drawings for publication with the issuing patent. Figs. 1, 2, 3a, and 3b on sheets 1-3 are resubmitted without substantive changes, but merely to reflect the new sheet number total resulting from the additional figures. Sheet 4 presents a new Fig. 3c to depict the cutting of the film web, transverse to the direction of the film web, before the advent of the film rope, which is used to start the wrapping of a new bale. Sheet 5 presents a new Fig. 3d to show the finished product and the film rope ready and awaiting a new bale. Sheet 6 amends original Fig. 3c to indicate the widening of the rope forming arms. Sheet 7 presents a new Fig. 4 depicting the twisting of the film into a film rope. Sheet 8 presents a new Fig. 5 depicting an exemplary schematic of outputting a bale from the baler to a wrapping table and the finished product.

REMARKS

The Office is requested to consider the following remarks when further evaluating the patentability of the claims as presented herein.

Specification Amendments

Applicant requests the amendments to the specification set forth above be entered in the present application. These amendments are made to correct certain spelling, grammar, and idiomatic errors that were made in the translation of the specification from the original German. Further, two additional paragraphs are added at the end of the specification to describe new Figs. 4 and 5 that depict certain aspects of the invention (i.e., a twisted film rope and the incorporation of a wrapping table) originally disclosed and claimed, but which were not represented in the figures. In particular, the description of the wrapping table of Fig. 5 is a description of known prior art wrapping table technology originally disclosed in German patent application number DE 19542645 A1, referenced in the specification at line 9, on page 7. No new matter is added by the presentation of these new paragraphs.

Claim Amendments

Applicant requests the amendments to the claims set forth above be entered in the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-22, and 24-26 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to present these claims in a divisional application.

Claim 3 is amended for presentation in an independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 from which it previously depended.

Claim 9 is amended for presentation in an independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 from which it previously depended.

Claim 13 is amended to insert a space between the words "wrapping" and "the," which was absent from the previous amendment.

Claim 23 is amended for presentation in an independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14 from which it previously depended.

Claim 27 is amended for presentation in an independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14 from which it previously depended.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant filed an information disclosure statement (IDS) on 24 October 2002. (PAIR notes this document logged in on 1 November 2002.) However, there has been no indication in any Office action thus far that this IDS was considered by the Office. Applicant requested the Office consider the IDS in Applicant's amendment dated 23 February 2004. However, the 21 June 2004 final Office action still does not indicate that the references submitted by Applicant have been considered. Applicant therefore again requests the Office acknowledge its review of the 24 October 2002 IDS in the notice of allowance. If the Office cannot locate of this IDS, Applicant is happy to provide a copy to the Office.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims overcome the objections of the examiner and place the remaining claims in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests speedy issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted this / day of September 2004.

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cc: Client Docketing